

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



## FRANKLY SPEAKING!

March is here! That was quick. I just got back from a week long camping adventure from Yosemite to Death Valley and back with Tasha, the kids, and both Chihuahuas. No one died, so I deem it a success! Due to antenna issues, I only made one QSO with 6y5/VE8DX preparing for the ARRL DX contest. Anyone who's been to Yosemite, radio is useless in the valley, I didn't bother setting up there.

We went out to Sonoma Skypark for Young Eagles on Sunday 3/9 and made several DX contacts and Ed W1EJ did some operation with his bug.

This month's program will be a video by 9V1YC on Bhutan. Brian makes amazing videos and this one's a great glimpse into this relatively unknown place.

Visalia DX Convention is coming up in April 17-19, this is a great place to meet the people who put on these expensive expeditions all year and see their presentations. No swap meet but the major manufacturers typically make a great showing of the latest gear including Elecraft who typically announces their latest products at Visalia.

Until then, keep your amps tuned and your aerials resonant.

—73, Frank KG6N

### NEXT MEETING

Wed, March 18, 2015, 7:30pm  
City of Sonoma EOC



Jan Harvey, K9OOU became a silent key on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Jan was a longtime club member.

His presence will be missed.

## MINUTES FEBRUARY 18

Meeting was called to order at 7:29ish PM by our Fearless Leader (except for heights) and President, Frank Wiebusch, KG6N

Members present at the meeting were: KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), NJ6E (Stan), K6UUW, (Jim), N7PIB (San), KJ6QIQ (Scott), K6KLL (Alan), KA2QQO (Declan), WB6TMH (Mike), W1EJ (Ed), WD6BOR (Darrel), KI6JNU (Moe), KG6N (Frank),

Guest: K6ETA (Steve), Kim.

Minutes were approved for the January 21 meeting as published in the newsletter.

### Report from officers:

**President:** Present and accounted for and running the show still!

**Vice President:** Hello.

**Treasurer:** We have received \$1226 for the tubes we sold with an expense of \$51. We have \$3095.14 in the bank and denied the Procurement Officer's request to go on a

shopping spree! We currently have 33 members on the roster.

**Secretary:** The insurance certificates have been submitted for the Hamfest. We need to pay an additional \$275 for the deposit for the Vets Building and I need to submit the signed rental agreement.

**ACS:** Need to update the ACS Net Control and need to fill a few slots.

**Radio Officer:** Working on a regenerative receiver for the High School projects.

**Website:** Needs to have the net controls updated for ACS. The Hamfest flyer has been updated. The website went down for a couple of days when we did not renew our domain name. **A Big THANK YOU to Vom.Com for taking care of this for us.**

### Old Business

**Hamfest:** Job assignments. We need help. Please plan to attend and especially give a hand in the kitchen. WD6BOR is going to have a bunch of items for a free table. It would be great if we can get the Vets Building Staff there as early as possible. Possibly free breakfast and additional incentives.

**Mystery Box:** The mystery box made its way back to the meeting. KA2QQO was the lucky winner of the Mystery box this month.

**Young Eagles:** The Young Eagles Event on February 8 was cancelled due to weather. The next one is March 8 (Weather Permitting).

### New Business

**N6P:** It is a go and we need to talk with Ken about who to contact at Point Reyes and what the process is for requesting the N6P call sign. The International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend is August 15 and 16.

**Next Month's Meeting Presentation:** TBA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1943ish PM to attack W1EJ's own raspberry pie project! Yum!

The meeting presentation was K6ETA, Steve Fischer, discussing his packet project using a Raspberry Pi computer and a TNC Pi controller. Truly amazing!

—Respectfully submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## Summits On the Air: Bennett Mountain Activated!



Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone - this is not just for mountaineers! There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits). Check out the website at: <http://www.sota.org.uk/> . The Summits are listed at: <http://www.sotamaps.org/> .

On February 15 I hiked to the top of Bennett Mountain, summit W6/NC305 and operated with a 2 meter handheld radio on simplex with a roll up dipole. I worked 6 stations and officially activated the summit. Bennett Mountain is the peak on the south side of Annadel State Park that you can see from Santa Rosa. This was the first activation of Bennett Mountain. There are a lot of mountains listed in the area and quite a few that have never been activated. You can operate on any amateur frequency and need to make a minimum of 4 contacts to count as an activation. You can list your planned activation at the SOTA website and people will be listening for you when you come on the air. I did not post anything and just got lucky on 2m

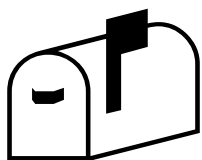
simplex. This is a lot of fun and gets you out in the great weather we have been having.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## Tubes are ready for shipping.



—Submitted by Jim K6UUW



## We Get Email

### Skywarn Weather Spotters

Looking for National Weather Service trained "SKYWARN" Weather Spotters in Sonoma and Marin County. MUST have official NWS spotter training. Must be interested in participating in a SKYWARN net during HAZARDOUS Weather conditions, utilizing the 146.730 - 88.5 Repeater on Sonoma Mountain.

If interested, please contact me "offline" at [rickseal@sonic.net](mailto:rickseal@sonic.net)

Let me know of your possible interest, and SKYWARN Spotter number.

Thank You,

Rick Sealock N6GY

NWS SKYWARN weather spotter #SO-49  
Sonoma County Dept. of Fire and Emergency  
Services/ACS Assistant Unit Leader-South  
County

## Volunteer Opportunities in 2015.

VOMARC has been requested to help At the Crossroads ( <http://atthecrossroads.org/> ) for their July 19, Mount Tamalpais hike, The Summer SunDay Hike for Homeless Youth. (<http://atthecrossroads.org/summersunday/> ) We need 4 to 6 radio operators to man 3 rest stops from about 7 AM to 3 PM. This is a fun, low key event for a great cause. Please contact Jim Hill or David Dammuller if you would like to join us.

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs has their list of upcoming public service events. Go to <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/> to check out the events:

### Coming Public Service Events

SoNoMaS	Apr 04 – 3 Open Spots
Lake Sonoma 50	Apr 11 – 4 Open Spots
Wine Country Century	May 02 – 19 Open Spots
Human Race	May 09 – 4 Open Spots
Terrible Two	Jun 20 – 15 Open Spots
Levi's Gran Fondo	Oct 03 – 34 Open Spots

These public service events are fun and a great way to practice emergency communications procedures. This really shows the capabilities of ham radio and it is great public relations for the hobby. Join the fun.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

## Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 Introduced in Congress

"The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015" -- H.R.1301 -- has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. The measure would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep Adam Kinzinger(R-IL) introduced the bill on March 4 with 12 original co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats. Kinzinger also sponsored "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, which died at the end of the 113th Congress. H.R. 1301 is an essentially identical piece of legislation.





"The introduction of H.R. 1301 with so many original co-sponsors, so early in this session of Congress, is very encouraging," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "Several additional members of Congress already have agreed to be co-sponsors. This bill has

momentum, but introduction is only the first step. Many of the next steps will be taken as ARRL members contact their US Representatives urging co-sponsorship and thanking them as they sign on to the bill."

If Congress approves the legislation, and it is signed by the president, H.R. 1301 would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners' association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include such private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

(from ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## **Number of US Amateur Radio Licensees at All-Time High**

The US Amateur Radio population continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of US Amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of 726,275 -- and the trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the total rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club

Once again, California far and away was home to the largest number of licensees among the 50 states, with 102,806 at the end of February.

Texas was a distant second, with 51,022, Florida came in third, with 40,743, Washington was fourth, with 30,511, and Ohio was fifth at 28,256. With the exception of Ohio, the licensing trend in these states has been through the roof. In Ohio, ham radio numbers began to flag a bit in 2014, after holding steady for about the past 4 year.

(from ARRL newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## **ARRL Partners with Liberty Mutual to Offer Home, Auto Insurance Discounts**

ARRL and Liberty Mutual Insurance have reached an agreement to provide League members with home and automobile insurance discounts. In the past, this membership benefit was provided by MetLife. Under the affinity arrangement, a portion of each premium comes back to ARRL.

In addition to auto and home insurance, Liberty Mutual offers life, motorcycle, condo, renter's, and personal liability insurance. Liberty Mutual representatives can discuss options and recommend coverage. To learn more, call 800-524-9400 or visit the Liberty Mutual website.

When contacting Liberty Mutual, ARRL members should request group savings and discounts offered to members of the "American Radio Relay League." (from ARRL Newsletter)

## **WEBSITE OFFERS PARTS FOR OLD RADIOS**

If you are rebuilding old radios and are looking for the right capacitors and other components, Hayseed Hamfest offers kits of components to save you a lot of shopping. You can then use the new-found spare time to make your own artisanal vacuum tubes!

(from ARRL Contest newsletter)

Submitted by Jim K6UUW

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS**

### **VOLUME 19 EDITION 3**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon  
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Frank Wiebusch KG6N — President  
Scott Wellington KJ6QIQ —Vice President  
Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader  
Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison  
Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator, Training Officer,  
President Emeritus  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after  
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of  
each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department  
EOC 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30  
P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:** <http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30  
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350  
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on  
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station  
is off the air until further notice.

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of  
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,  
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at  
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
Eileen@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

c/o Sonoma Police Department  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2015 ACS  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2015 VOMARC  
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	FRANK	KG6N
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

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**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE MARCH 18, 7:30PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC, 175  
1<sup>ST</sup> ST WEST, SONOMA  
SEE YOU THERE.**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2015** Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).  
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary with Class--Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1<sup>st</sup> St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**